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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/045,122	11/09/2001	Paul Stypulkowski	11738.00024	2402
27581	7590	01/04/2007		
MEDTRONIC, INC. 710 MEDTRONIC PARK MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55432-9924			EXAMINER SCHAETZLE, KENNEDY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3766	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/04/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/045,122

Applicant(s)

STYPULKOWSKI, PAUL

Examiner

Kennedy Schaetzle

Art Unit

3766

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-14,23-43 and 47-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7-14,23-25 and 47-51 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 28, 2006 has been entered.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 30 (see par. 02). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: several grammatical errors have been found (e.g., par. 02, lines 7-9, par. 17, lines 3 and 4, etc.).

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 23 is objected to because of the following informalities: typographical errors appear on line 5. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 26-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pohndorf et al..

Regarding claim 26, Pohndorf et al. disclose an extension unit (see Fig. 9) comprising input lines (381, 382), output lines (384-387), an array of programmable switches (401-404 and 406-409) connected between one input line and at least a portion of the output lines, wherein the switches are configured to simultaneously trigger a plurality of electrodes via control circuits 388 and 390, whereby the extension unit enables a distant implantable pulse generator having a number of output sources to be used with a lead having an electrode array with a number of electrodes greater than the number of output sources.

Regarding the term *distant*, since the applicant has not explicitly defined this term with clarity and precision in the original disclosure, the examiner is at liberty to interpret this term in its broadest reasonable sense. Merriam Webster defines the word *distant* to mean "...1a. separated in space." The pulse generator within the housing 218 is therefore considered to be distant from the spaced extension unit which resides outside of the housing.

Regarding claims 28 and 33, Pohndorf et al. teach that the switches in the programmable array may be bistable magnetic reed switches in col. 10, lines 12-24. Such relay switches are considered to retain their switching state after power has been removed. The devices are in microcircuit form as per col. 9, lines 53-68.

Concerning claims 38 and 39, the examiner considers any magnetically activated switch to be mechanically and magnetically adjustable. The term *adjustable* merely means capable of adjustment.

Regarding claims concerning wave shaping, the examiner considers the electrical paths containing the zener diodes shown in Figs. 3 and 3A to constitute an array of wave shaping circuits, with the diodes inherently shaping the amplitude and frequency of signals received on the output sources in order to attenuate high energy pulses and prevent damage to circuitry.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed September 28, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding claim 26, the recitation in the preamble that the extension unit is for electrically connecting an insulated set of conductors that extends from a distant housing is considered to be a statement of intended use. In any event, Pohndorf et al., discloses an insulated set of conductors 220 and 222 (as best shown in Fig. 3, for example). The conductors are inherently insulated from the body by the pacemaker housing 218 and/or header 202 as required to prevent shorting.

In view of the applicants' arguments concerning the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, the examiner upon further consideration has vacated this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 7-14, 23-25, 47-51 are allowed.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kennedy Schaetzle whose telephone number is 571 272-4954. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:30 -6:00.

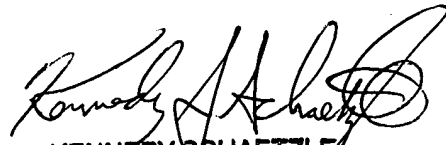
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on M-F at 571 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KJS

December 25, 2006



KENNEDY SCHAEZLE
PRIMARY EXAMINER